A Testimony against Gaming, Musick, Dancing,

Singing, Swearing, and Peoples calling upon GOD to DAMN them.

As also against Drinking to Excess, Whoring, Lying and Cheating.

Commended to the Consciences of all People in the Sight of God, but more especially to those, who keep Publick Houses.

Dr. Ames, de Consc. lib. 4 c. 23. §. 5. saith, *Plays which depend meerly or principally of Fortune, are of their own nature Unlawful.*

First, SEE that you suffer none to play at any sort of Game in your Houses, *viz.* **Cards, Dice, Tables, Shuffle board,** and the like; for in so doing you will displease the Lord, and may cause him to bring a blast upon all your Undertakings: But on the contrary, *Reprove* and *Admonish* such in God's Fear. For it never was the Practice of God's People in the Primitive Times to Game away their precious Time, which the Lord gave them to *work out their own Salvation in*; neither is it the Practice of them that are *Christians* in deed, in this day, though the *Nominal Christians* may plead for it.

Therefore you that know the *Life of true Christianity*, bear your Testimonies faithfully against **Gaming**, for it is as it were a piece of *Witchcraft*: for when Mens Hearts and Minds are exercised in it, they are even overcome by the same, and so are serving the Enemy of their own Immortal Souls with all their strength, and the Fear of the Lord is not before their Eyes; for when the Hearts and Minds are exercised in their *Games*, it is, as it were, their *God*, and often times tends to *Quarrelling*, *Fighting* and *Blood-shed*. It is therefore good for all that are *Christians* in deed and in truth, to bear your *Testimonies* against *Gaming*; for this is certainly true, that the Lord and his Truth is dishonoured by admitting People to Game in your Houses: Therefore be careful in bringing *Honour* to *God* by bearing your Testimonies for him and his Truth, against that that is displeasing unto the Lord, and hurtful unto your own poor Souls.

Prov. 14. 13. *Even in Laughter the Heart is made sorrowful; and the end of that Mirth is heaviness.*

Secondly, See that you suffer none to *Play* upon any sort of **Musick**, nor any to **Dance, Sing** or **Swear** in your Houses; but bear your Testimonies against such things, both by reproving them in God's Fear and Love, and in obstructing the same: for they are all displeasing in the sight of the Lord, and may cause his Judgments to come upon your Houses and Families. Therefore to prevent the same from coming upon you, live up to that Gift which the Lord hath given you, that you may stand in your places, and bear a Testimony for the Lord and his Truth in your Day, Age and Generation; then will the Lord Bless and Prosper you, both inwardly and outwardly, and in all that you undertake; and all that do Rejoyce, *Let them Rejoyce in the Lord.*

Musick is a thing, that *stealeth the Hearts* of them that play upon it, or *adhere* unto it, from the Lord, (and tends to *raise up a light, airy, frothy, wanton Mind*; for they that *live in Pleasure, are dead while they live*; and they that *live* wantonly, *kill the Just*) for when Mens Hearts and Minds are exercised by it, they remember not the Lord that made them and all Mankind *for a purpose of his own Glory*; *but spend away their precious time* in that which the Lord by his Prophet *Amos* bore Testimony against, as you may read in the 6th *Chapter* of the Prophecy of that Prophet, in which he pronounceth a **Woe** *unto them that chaunt unto the* **Viol**, *and invent unto themselves* **Instruments of Musick**, *like unto* David. Do such *Remember their Creator in the days of their Youth?* No; they have rather forgotten their Maker, which would be their **Saviour**, if they would come to be saved by him, from their *perishing fading Vanities*, which God and his People are against.

Eccles. 7. 4. *The heart of the Wise, is in the house of Mourning; but the heart of Fools is in the house of Mirth.*

Singing and **Dancing** are of the same Root and Ground with **Gaming** and **Musick**, *&c.* all which proceed from that Seed, which the Enemy of Man and Womans Salvation hath sown in the Hearts of the *Children of Disobedience*, which Enemy is the *Devil*, who *walks about, seeking whom he may devour.* And such who let loose their Hearts, Minds and Affections after those things, pursuing and following with greediness after the same, are making an *Idol* of them, and do desire more after them, than they do after the Knowledge of God, *whom to know is Life Eternal*: and so hereby God, who alone ought to be sought after and bowed down unto, is robbed of that which is his Right, even the *Praise*, the *Honour* and the *Glory of his Name*, which ought to be given unto him from every reasonable Creature, that he hath [illegible] Mankind to *serve* the Lord *above all things*, even with all their Souls, and all their Might, and not run into *fading Vanities*, which perish in the using, and which bring *Tribulation, Anguish* and *Wrath* upon all that are found in them: for *God will not be mocked*; *such as every Man sows, such they must reap from Divine Justice, who renders unto every Man according unto his Deeds, without respect of Persons.*

Some that delight in *Musick* may object, *That* David *and others of the People of God, did play upon Instruments of* **Musick**.

Isa. 24. 9. *They shall not drink Wine with a Song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it.*

Amos 8. 10. *And I will turn your Feasts into mourning, and all your Songs into Lamentation*

Answer, *David* and others, who were faithful to God, did not play upon *Instruments of Musick* to stir up, raise and elevate a *vain, sinful, unclean Mind* in themselves or any others; but their playing upon and use of *Instruments of Musick*, being under the Shadowy Dispensation of the Law, what they did herein, they did it unto the Lord. The Priests under the Law had a command to *sound Trumpets*, which was a sort of *Musick*; and *David* and others made use of other Instruments, as the *Flute, Harp*, and *Cymbal*; and this they did in Honour and Praise to the Lord, and not to stir up a *vain, wanton, light, airy fleshly* and *ungodly Mind*, as it may be seen in the Scriptures of Truth.

Again, Some may plead for **Dancing**, *because* David *danced before the Ark.*

Answ. This *Dancing* was in the time of the *Law*, and was a token of his rejoycing because of the *Ark of God*, which was brought back out of the *Philistians* Land, who were Enemies to God and his People: This *Dancing* was not like the *Dancing* of the *vain, wanton* and *prophane Persons* of our Age, nor yet like the *Dancing* of *Herodias's* [illegible], who *Danced* before [illegible] who after she had Danced, demanded the Head of the Man of God, *John* the *Baptist*, and had it, being thereunto instructed by her malicious Mother.

As concerning **Singing** and **Rejoycing**; true *Singing* and *Rejoycing* the Lord God did own under the Law, which was Shadowy, and stood in many Carnal Ordinances, which were to continue *until the time of Reformation*, as saith the Apostle, *Heb.* 9. 10. which time is the time of the Gospel, which is come.

Job 21. 13. *They spend their days in Wealth, and in a moment go down to the Grave.*

Again, God did and doth own **Singing** in the **Spirit** under the dispensation of the Gospel; but the **Singers** that God doth own under the Gospel-dispensation, are those who are first taught by him to mourn for, repent of, and forsake their Sins; such who are led by the Spirit of the Lord to Mourn for, Repent of, and forsake their Sins, in the same Spirit they may *Sing*, as it moves and leads them. The Apostle *Paul* said, *I will* **Sing** *with the* **Spirit** *and with* **Understanding**, 1. Cor. 14. 15. And it is written, *Isa.* 35. 10. *The* **Redeemed** *of the Lord shall return to* Sion *with* **Songs** *of* **Deliverance**. And it is written, *Rev.* 15. 3. *They that were* **Redeemed** *from the Earth, sing the* **Song** *of Moses and the* Lamb. And wise *Solomon* said, (*Eccles.* 7. 3, 2.) **Sorrow** *is better than* **Laughter**; *and it is better to go into the* **House** *of* **Mourning** *than in o the* **House** *of* **Mirth**: **Mourning**, *in the Unregenerate, in the sence of their Sins, is better than* **Laughter** *and* **Singing**. *And God will turn the* **Songs** *of the Wicked into* **Mourning**, *Amos* 8. 10. And Christ said, *Mat.* 12. 36. *Every* **Idle Word** *that Men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of Judgment.* And the Apostle *James* saith, *Who among you seem to be Religious, and bridleth not his Tongue, but deceiveth his own Heart, this Mans Religion is vain*, James 1. 26.

Observe, that *Nebuchadnezar*, the Heathen King, and his Company of Idolaters, had **Musick**, (*viz.*) the Sound of the **Cornet, Flute, Harp, Sackbut, Psaltery** and **Dulcimer**, and all kinds of **Musick**, when they Worshipped the Golden Image, that he had set up: These were they which cast the three Children into the Fiery Furnace. This their *Musick* and *Rejoycing* was Wicked and Ungodly.

Again, Observe, the Apostle said unto the true *Christians, Be ye not drunk with* **Wine**, *wherein is Excess, but be filled by the Spirit*; *speaking to your selves in* **Psalms, Hymns**, *and* **Spiritual Songs**, *Singing and making Melody in your Hearts to the Lord*, Ephes. 5. 19.

Also **Swearing** and calling upon **God to Damn them**, and **Blaspheming** the Pure Holy and Undefiled **Name of God**, proceeds even from the same Root, that **Gaming, Musick, Singing** and **Dancing** do arise and spring from: Therefore let none who are found in any of those things (to wit, in **Swearing, Damning, Cursing** and **Blaspheming the Name of the Lord**) think to escape God's Righteous Judgments; for it is written, *The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his* **Name in vain**. And the Lord complains by the Prophet *Jeremiah, Because of* **Swearing** *the Land* **Mourneth**, Jer. 23. 10.

Therefore all you that are concerned as Witnesses for God, see, that you bear your Testimonies against these things, that the Lord may bless you and prosper you in all your *Undertakings*, that the **Praise** and **Honour**, which is his due, he may receive from you, and you from him a **Crown** of **Glory**, which fadeth not away, when time here shall be no more.

John Kelsall.

In the late King's Proclamation against Vicious, Debauched and Prophane Persons, *&c.* Dated *May* the 30th 1660. in the Twelfth Year of his Reign, are these Remarkable Passages following.

"There is a sort of Men, *of whom* "*We are sufficiently* **ashamed**, *who spend their time in* **Taverns**, "**Tippling-houses, and Debaucheries**, *giving no other Evidence of their Affection to us, but in* "**Drinking Our Healths**, *and* **inveighing against all others**, *who are not of their own* **dissolute** "**temper**, *and who in Truth have* **more discredited our Cause**, *by the* **Licentiousness** *of their Manners* "*and* **Lives**, *than they could ever* **advance** *it by their* **Affection** *and* **Courage**--- *We reasonably hope, these* "*Men will cordially renounce all that* **Licentiousness, Prophaneness** *and* **Impiety**, *with which* "*they have been* **corrupted**, *and* **endeavoured to corrupt others**; *and that they will hereafter become* "*Examples of* **Sobriety** *and* **Virtue**---*We will not exercise* **just severity** *against any Malefactors,* "*sooner than against* **Men of Dissolute, Debauched** *and* **Prophane Lives**, *with what parts soever they* "*may be otherwise qualified and endowed.*— *And we hope, all Persons of Honour, or in Place and Authority,* "*will so far assist Us in discountenancing such Men, that their* **Discretion** *and* **Shame** *will persuade them* "*to Reform, what their* **Consciences would not.**——— *Which may by the Example and Severity of Vir-* "*tuous Men be easily discountenanced, and by degrees suppressed.*

"*However for the more effectual reforming* **these Men**, *who are a* **discredit to the Nation**, *and unto* "**any Cause** *they pretend to favour and to wish well to*; *We require all Mayors and Sheriffs, and Justices of* "*the Peace, to be very* **vigilant** *and* **strict** *in the* **Discovery** *and* **Prosecution** *of all* **Dissolute** *and* "**Prophane Swearing** *and* **Cursing**.

This was **Re inforced** by a Second Proclamation of the King, the 13th of *August*, 1660. Charging all Ministers to read it once each Month, for six Months ensuing, and **stir up** their Auditors to observe the said **Duties**, and avoid the said **Vices**.

Also in the Late Proclamation by the King and Queen, against Vicious, Debauched and Prophane Persons, Given at White-Hall *the 21st of* January, 169½.

Who hath Woe? who hath Sorrow? who hath Contentions? who hath Wounds without cause? Who hath redness of Eye? they that tarry long at the Wine, they that go to seek mixt Wine; at the last it biteth like a Serpent, and stingeth like an Adder, See Prov. 23. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32. See also Deut. 29. 18, 19, 20. Whose Heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to add Drunkenness unto Thirst the Lord will not spare him, but the Anger of the Lord and his Jealousy shall smoke against that Man, and the Lord shall blot out his Name from under Heaven.

BEcause that **Impiety** and **Vice** do still abound in this Kingdom, the King and Queen Declare (as bound in Duty to God, and Care for the People) Thus, *viz.* We have thought fit to Issue this our Royal Proclamation: And do declare our Princely Intention and **Resolution**, To **Discountenance** all manner of **Vice** and **Immorality** in all Persons, from the Highest to the Lowest Degree, in this our Realm; And We do hereby for that purpose straightly Require, Charge and Command all and singular our Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other our Officers, *&c.* in their respective Stations, to Execute the Laws against **Blasphemy, Prophane Swearing, Drunkenness, Lewdness**, Prophanation of the **Lord's Day** or any other **Dissolute, Immoral** or **Disorderly** Practices, as they will answer it to **Almighty God**, and upon Pain of our Highest Displeasure.

AND at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held for the County of *Middlesex* at *Hicks's-Hall*, the 10th Day of *July*, 1691. An Order was thence Issued out Pursuant to the Queens Letter, bearing Date the 9th of *July* aforesaid, recommending unto the Justices the putting in Execution those Laws, which have been made, and are still in Force, against the Prophanation of the Lord's Day, **Drunkenness, Prophane Swearing, and Cursing**, and all other **Lewd Enormous and Disorderly Practices**, which have spread to the **Dishonour** of God, and the Scandal of our Holy Religion; and to apply themselves with all possible Care for the *Suppressing* of the same, and all other Sins and *Vices*, particularly those which are now prevailing in this Realm, for **preventing those Judgments, which are solemnly Denounced against the Sins** abovementioned. And in Compliance with the said Letter from the Queen, the said Justices unanimously Resolved and Declared, that they would put all the Laws in Execution against **Prophane Swearing**, and **Cursing**, and also against the **odious and loathsom Sin** of **Drunkenness**, and against all Houses of **Debauchery**, and **Evil-Fame**, being Vices **hateful** to God and all Good Men [as they also Declare.]

ALso the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen for the City of *London*, gave out an Order the 6th Day of *August*, 1691.

Wherein they take into their serious Consideration, the great Prophanation of the Lords Day, and the too common Practice of **Cursing and Swearing, Excess of Drinking**, and the **Impudent committing of Lewdness and Debauchery**, and the late Increase of these Vices, and Enormities; and as being sensible, that the **severe Judgments** of **God** have usually fain upon Nations and Cities persisting in such Impieties. Do therefore require all Persons intrusted with the Offices of Magistracy and Administration of Justice within the said City and Liberties thereof, impartially to Execute their several and respective Authorities to suppress and prevent the aforesaid **Scandalous** Offences and Impieties, by punishing the Offenders therein, as the Laws and Statutes of this Realm have provided, with Directions thereunto severally.

AND **Anno Sexto & Septimo Gulielmi Tertii Regis**: There is a Penal Act of Parliament made and Entituled.

An Act for the more effectual suppressing Prophane Cursing, and Swearing: wherein **Prophane Swearing and Cursing** are called **detestable Sins**, and therefore ordered to be punished by certain Fines, and corporal Punishments.

YEt all consider *Israel* of old, who when they forgot God (who had wrought mighty Deliverances for them) how they ran in Feasting, Dancing and Idolatry; as it is written, *They sate down to Eat and Drink, and rose up to Play, and Danced about the Golden Calf*, which they had set up. But it was a dismal Date unto them; for several Thousands of them were destroyed in one day, *Exod.* 32. 6, 19, 27. And every one that Sweareth, shall be cut off, *&c. Zach.* 5. 3.

Is Swearing, and Lying, and Killing, and Stealing, and committing Adultery, they break out, and Blood toucheth Blood, *Hosea* 4. 2.

And if the Righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the Ungodly and the sinner appear? 1 *Pet.* 4. 18.

Matt. 5. 6 *Blessed are they that shall Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness, for they shall be filled.* Rev. 21. 8 *But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*

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